

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed October 5, 2005. In this Amendment, claims 1, 16, 31, 41, 44, 50, and 54 have been amended. Claims 2, 17, 33, 45 and 51 have been canceled without prejudice.

Applicants reserve all rights with respect to the applicability of the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 10-15 and 25-30.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2, 5, 17, 20, 33, 36, 45, 48 and 51 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten to include all the limitations of the claims from which they each originally depended.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Therefore, independent claim 2 and associated dependent claims 3-9 are in condition of allowance.

Independent claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 17. Therefore, independent claim 16 and associated dependent claims 18-24 are in condition of allowance.

Independent claim 31 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 33. Therefore, independent claim 31 and associated dependent claims 32 and 34-39 are in condition of allowance.

Independent claim 41 has been amended to include certain limitations of claim 2. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 41 and associated dependent claims 42-43 are in condition of allowance.

Independent claim 44 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 45. Therefore, independent claim 44 and associated dependent claims 46-49 are in condition of allowance.

Independent claim 50 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 51. Therefore, independent claim 50 and associated dependent claims 52-53 are in condition of

allowance.

Independent claim 54 has been amended to include certain limitations of claim 2. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 54 and associated dependent claims 55-56 are in condition of allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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